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The Free Energy of Hot Gauge Theories with Fermions Through g^5

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Abstract

We compute the free energy density F for gauge theories, with fermions, at high temperature and zero chemical potential. In the expansion $F = T^4[c_0 + c_2g^2 + c_3g^3 + (c'_4 \ln g + c_4)g^4 + (c'_5 \ln g + c_5)g^5 + O(g^6)]$, we determine c'_5 and c_5 analytically by calculating two- and three-loop diagrams. The g^5 term constitutes the first correction to the g^3 term and is for the non-Abelian case the last power of g that can be computed within perturbation theory. We find that the g^5 term receives no contributions from overlapping double-frequency sums and that c'_5 vanishes.

I. INTRODUCTION

The perturbative expansion of the free energy density of high-temperature gauge theory in four dimensions can be written as

$$F = T^4[c_0 + c_2g^2 + c_3g^3 + (c'_4 \ln g + c_4)g^4 + (c'_5 \ln g + c_5)g^5 + O(g^6)], \quad (1.1)$$

where the $c_k^{(\prime)}$ are numerical coefficients (that depend on the field content of the theory, the renormalization scheme and the renormalization scale) and where we have assumed the temperature high enough that fermion masses can be ignored. Previously, F has been computed to $O(g^3)$ for QED by Akhiezer and Peletminskii [1] and for QCD by Kapusta [2], while the $g^4 \ln g$ term was obtained by Toimela [3]. More recently, F has been computed to $O(g^4)$ by Arnold and one of the present authors (C.Z.) [4]. Corianò and Parwani [5] have recently studied high-temperature QED up to $O(g^5)$. The free energy density (or, equivalently, the pressure) is also known to $O(g^5)$ in Φ^4 theory (see Ref. [6] and references therein). Here we determine the coefficients c'_5 and c_5 in expansion (1.1). For this purpose we need to take into account Debye screening at three loops (for a review on Debye screening, see Refs. [7,8]).

Note that, for the non-Abelian case, the g^5 term is believed to be the last power in g accessible within perturbation theory [9] (for a review, see Refs. [7,8]). Starting at four loops, infrared problems that are believed to be cured by non-perturbative magnetic screening lead to contributions to the g^6 term from diagrams with arbitrarily high numbers of loops.

The g^5 term is also interesting because it constitutes the first correction to the g^3 term, the lowest order at which Debye screening plays a role. The renormalization group invariance to this order can be tested. The dependence of F on the renormalization scale due to the g^3 term should be diminished by including the g^5 term. Checking this, we can gain some idea about the theoretical uncertainties of the g^3 term as well as the behavior of the perturbative expansion. Also, our result can be used for a test of an evaluation of F on the lattice. Finally, our result is potentially interesting for the evolution of the early Universe, where one might have to add scalars to the theory.

In section II notation and conventions are established. In section III we outline our general computational procedure and emphasize what is new as compared to the g^4 calculation. In section IV we conclude by presenting and analyzing our result as well as comparing it to related results.

II. NOTATION AND CONVENTIONS

We use the same notation and conventions as in Ref. [4]. We now present an almost verbatim review of these to keep this work as self-contained as possible.

We consider gauge theories given in Euclidean spacetime by Lagrangians of the form

$$\mathcal{L}_E = \bar{\psi}\gamma_\mu \left(\partial_\mu - igA_\mu^a T^a \right) \psi + \frac{1}{4} \left(\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a + gf^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c \right)^2 + \mathcal{L}_{\text{gf,gh}}, \quad (2.1)$$

with gauge fixing and ghost term $\mathcal{L}_{\text{gf,gh}}$, and where the T^a are the generators of a single, simple Lie group, such as U(1) or SU(3). To simplify our presentation, we will not derive results for an arbitrary product of simple Lie groups such as SU(2)×U(1), but such cases could easily be handled by adjusting the overall group and coupling factors on the results we give for individual diagrams.

d_A and C_A are the dimension and quadratic Casimir invariant of the adjoint representation, with

$$\delta^{aa} = d_A, \quad f^{abc}f^{dbc} = C_A\delta^{ad}. \quad (2.2)$$

d_F is the dimension of the total fermion representation (*e.g.*, 18 for six-flavor QCD), and S_F and S_{2F} are defined in terms of the generators T^a for the total fermion representation as

$$S_F = \frac{1}{d_A} \text{tr}(T^2), \quad S_{2F} = \frac{1}{d_A} \text{tr}[(T^2)^2], \quad (2.3)$$

where $T^2 = T^a T^a$. For SU(N) with n_f fermions in the fundamental representation, the standard normalization of the coupling gives

$$d_A = N^2 - 1, \quad C_A = N, \quad d_F = Nn_f, \quad S_F = \frac{1}{2}n_f, \quad S_{2F} = \frac{N^2 - 1}{4N}n_f. \quad (2.4)$$

For U(1) theory, relabel g as e and let the charges of the n_f fermions be $q_i e$. Then

$$d_A = 1, \quad C_A = 0, \quad d_F = n_f, \quad S_F = \sum_i q_i^2, \quad S_{2F} = \sum_i q_i^4. \quad (2.5)$$

If the fermion representation is irreducible or consists of several identical copies of an irreducible representation [as in (2.4) above], we have

$$d_A S_F^2 = d_F S_{2F}. \quad (2.6)$$

We work in Feynman gauge. We also work exclusively in the Euclidean (imaginary time) formulation of thermal field theory. We conventionally refer to four-momenta with capital letters K and to their components with lower-case letters: $K = (k_0, \vec{k})$. All four-momenta are Euclidean with discrete frequencies $k_0 = 2\pi n T$ for bosons and ghosts and $k_0 = 2\pi \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right) T$ for fermions. We regularize the theory by working in $d = 4 - 2\epsilon$ dimensions with the modified minimal subtraction ($\overline{\text{MS}}$) scheme, which corresponds to doing minimal subtraction (MS) and then changing the MS scale μ to the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scale $\bar{\mu}$ by the substitution

$$\mu^2 = \frac{e^{\gamma_E} \bar{\mu}^2}{4\pi}. \quad (2.7)$$

The trace over the identity in spinor space is by convention $\text{tr} I = 4$.

To denote summation over discrete loop frequencies and integration over loop three-momenta, we use the shorthand notation

$$\oint_P \rightarrow \mu^{2\epsilon} T \sum_{p_0} \int \frac{d^{3-2\epsilon} p}{(2\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \quad (2.8)$$

for bosonic momenta and

$$\oint_{\{P\}} \rightarrow \mu^{2\epsilon} T \sum_{\{p_0\}} \int \frac{d^{3-2\epsilon} p}{(2\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \quad (2.9)$$

for fermionic momenta, where

$$\sum_{p_0} \rightarrow \sum_{p_0=2\pi n T}, \quad \sum_{\{p_0\}} \rightarrow \sum_{p_0=2\pi \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right) T}. \quad (2.10)$$

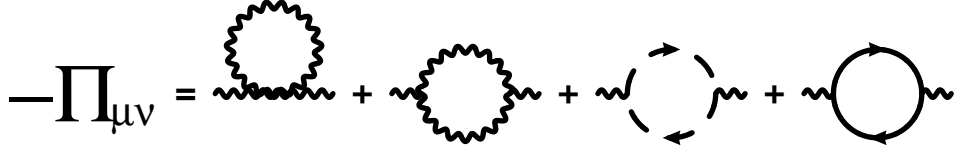


FIG. 1. The one-loop gluon self-energy.

We handle the resummation of hard thermal loops [which is required to make perturbation theory well behaved beyond $O(g^2)$] as was done in Ref. [4]. Specifically, we must improve our propagators by incorporating the Debye screening mass M for A_0 , which is determined at leading order by the self-energy diagrams of Fig. 1:

$$M^2 \delta^{ab} = \Pi_{00}^{ab}(0) = \Pi_{\mu\mu}^{ab}(0) = g^2 \delta^{ab} \left[C_A (d-2)^2 \not\!\!\!\int_Q \frac{1}{Q^2} - 4S_F (d-2) \not\!\!\!\int_{\{Q\}} \frac{1}{Q^2} \right]. \quad (2.11)$$

This is accomplished by rewriting our Lagrangian density, in frequency space, as

$$\mathcal{L}_E = \left(\mathcal{L}_E + \frac{1}{2} M^2 A_0^a A_0^a \delta_{p_0} \right) - \frac{1}{2} M^2 A_0^a A_0^a \delta_{p_0}, \quad (2.12)$$

where δ_{p_0} is shorthand for the Kronecker delta symbol $\delta_{p_0,0}$. Then we absorb the first A_0^2 term into our unperturbed Lagrangian \mathcal{L}_0 and treat the second A_0^2 term as a perturbation.

Since the free energy density is computed by considering vacuum diagrams (diagrams without external legs), there is no need to explicitly introduce wave function renormalizations. We only need to renormalize the coupling constant. We do this by expressing the bare coupling constant g_b in terms of the renormalized coupling g ,

$$\mu^{-2\epsilon} g_b^2 = Z_g^2 g^2 = \left(1 - \frac{11C_A - 4S_F}{3\epsilon} \frac{g^2}{(4\pi)^2} + O(g^4) \right) g^2, \quad (2.13)$$

and then using the bare coupling constant g_b to the required order in g at all vertices in the vacuum diagrams. Through g^5 it is sufficient to know the one-loop renormalization given above. However, for the computation of the Debye screening mass (2.11) we have used the renormalized coupling g . This is allowed because for the cure of the infrared problems achieved by reorganizing the perturbation expansion according to (2.12), only the leading contribution in g to the Debye mass is crucial.

III. COMPUTATIONAL PROCEDURE

A. g^5 Order Contributions

In the expansion of the free energy density, the zeroth-order term represents the free energy density of an ideal gas containing free gauge bosons and massless quarks. The leading contribution due to the interaction is of order g^2 which is represented by two-loop diagrams. For the calculation of higher-order terms the resummation (2.12) for the static timelike gluon propagator is required because of infrared divergences. It is this resummation, which introduces the Debye screening mass into the theory, that causes the expansion of the free energy density being in powers of g instead of g^2 . Consequently, one cannot determine the order of a diagram by naively counting the number of interaction vertices. The leading odd-power contribution is of order g^3 which comes from the one-loop diagram with the resummed static gluon propagator. The g^4 term receives contributions from the subleading pieces of two-loop diagrams as well as the leading pieces of three-loop diagrams. To get the g^5 term of the free energy density, we need to compute the two-loop diagrams to higher order and the subleading pieces of three-loop diagrams. Fig. 2 contains all the diagrams contributing to the free energy density up to g^5 order.

We mainly follow the formal manipulations in Refs. [4] to simplify the sum-integrals obtained by applying the Feynman rules to the diagrams in Fig. 2. We shall focus on the contributions at order g^5 . Due to the resummation, there are two momentum scales, gT (the Debye mass) and T , appearing in the sum-integrals. We will conveniently refer to momenta of order gT as “soft” and momenta of order T as “hard.” A sum-integral usually gains its dominant piece from a momentum integral region where some momenta are hard and others are soft. Our strategy is to identify the soft and hard momenta in the sum-integrals and carry out an expansion about the ratio between the Debye mass or the soft momenta and the hard momenta to extract the leading piece. We then construct a new sum-integral from the original one by subtracting its leading piece out. We then find the

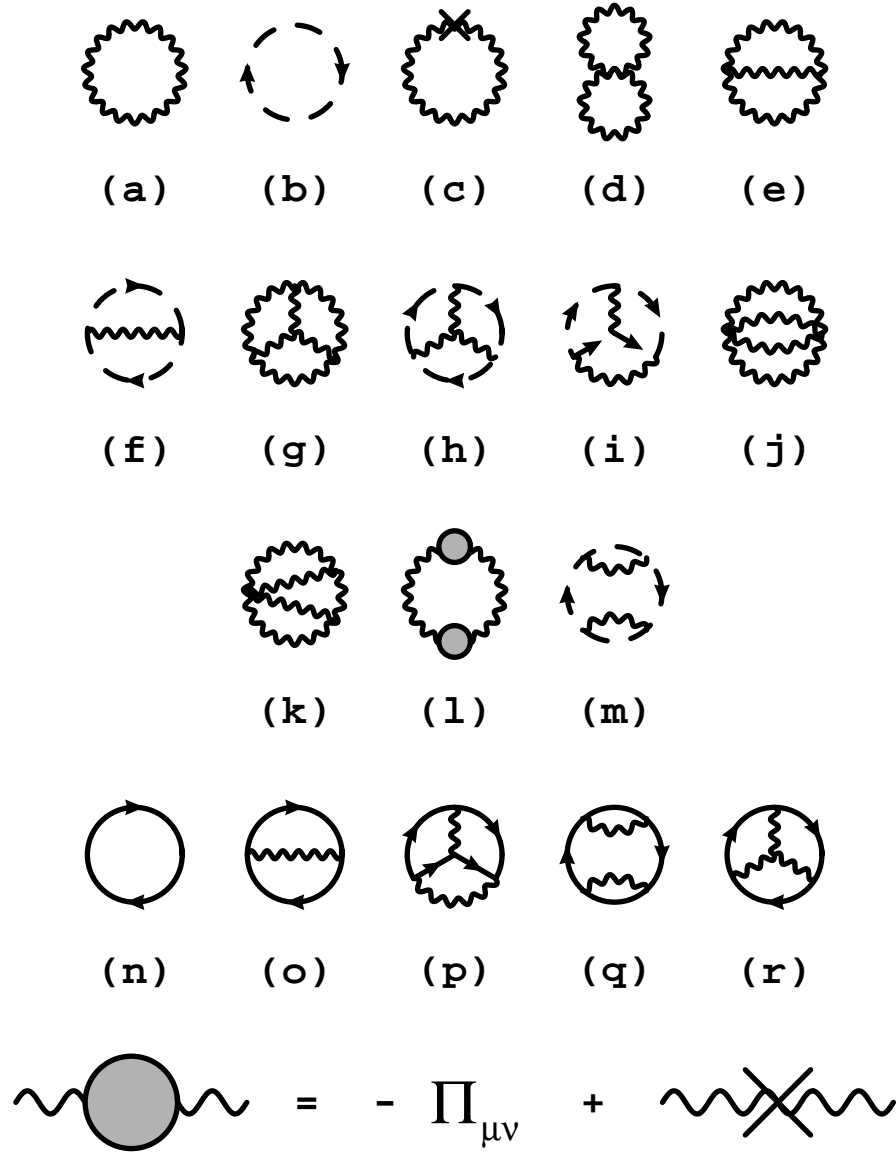


FIG. 2. Diagrams contributing to the free energy of gauge theories with fermions. The crosses are the “thermal counterterms” arising from the last term of (2.12).

corresponding soft and hard momenta for this new sum-integral to extract its leading piece which is the next-to-leading piece for the original integral. This procedure enables us to get a systematic expansion in powers of g . Since when getting the leading piece of a sum-integral, a soft momentum is always neglected compared to a hard momentum, the integrals for two different scales T and gT are separated or decoupled.

In the following two subsections, we give more details about our computational procedure by considering separately two- and three-loop diagrams. We concentrate on explaining the way in which we perform the calculation but spare the reader from all the messy details for computing individual diagrams. The expressions for all the diagrams in Fig. 2 are provided in Appendix A.

B. Two-loop Diagrams

To illustrate the general discussion in the previous subsection, let us first consider a typical two-loop sum-integral arising from the setting sun diagram (e) in Fig. 2,

$$A_{\text{typ}} \equiv \oint_{PQ} \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2 + M^2} \frac{q_0^2}{Q^2(P+Q)^2}. \quad (3.1)$$

We shall use superscripts to denote the pieces in the expansion of A_{typ} in M , *i.e.*, $A_{\text{typ}}^{(0)}$ for the leading piece, $A_{\text{typ}}^{(1)}$ for the subleading piece and so on. The leading piece of $A_{\text{typ}}^{(0)}$ may be obtained by setting M to zero since A_{typ} is infrared safe as $M \rightarrow 0$ and since the typical P contributing to A_{typ} is of order T which is much larger than M . We can then subtract this leading piece from A_{typ} which gives

$$A_{\text{typ}} = A_{\text{typ}}^{(0)} - M^2 \oint_{PQ} \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2(P^2 + M^2)} \frac{q_0^2}{Q^2(P+Q)^2} \quad (3.2)$$

with

$$A_{\text{typ}}^{(0)} = \oint_{PQ} \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2} \frac{q_0^2}{Q^2(P+Q)^2}. \quad (3.3)$$

Now, we find that the P integral in the second term on the right-hand side of Eq. (3.2) is infrared sensitive to M which means this P integral picks up contribution mainly at the

region where P is of order M . Thus, P is soft for the subleading piece of A_{typ} . Since Q is always hard, the subleading piece $A_{\text{typ}}^{(1)}$ is

$$A_{\text{typ}}^{(1)} = -M^2 \not\!\!\!\int_{PQ} \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2(P^2 + M^2)} \frac{q_0^2}{Q^4} = J_{1a} \not\!\!\!\int_Q \frac{q_0^2}{Q^4} \quad (3.4)$$

and then

$$A_{\text{typ}} = A_{\text{typ}}^{(0)} + A_{\text{typ}}^{(1)} + M^2 \not\!\!\!\int_{PQ} \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2(P^2 + M^2)} \left[\frac{q_0^2}{Q^4} - \frac{q_0^2}{Q^2(P+Q)^2} \right]. \quad (3.5)$$

Here we have defined the integral

$$J_{1a} = \not\!\!\!\int_P \delta_{p_0} \left(\frac{1}{P^2 + M^2} - \frac{1}{P^2} \right) = -M^2 \not\!\!\!\int_P \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2(P^2 + M^2)} \quad (3.6)$$

which is of order g in four spacetime dimensions. Its value can be found in Appendix B.

Now since the P integral in the last term of (3.5) behaves as $1/(P^2 + M^2)$ when P is much less than T , we find that the P integral receives its main contribution from the region where P is hard. Thus,

$$A_{\text{typ}}^{(2)} = M^2 \not\!\!\!\int_{PQ} \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^4} \left[\frac{q_0^2}{Q^4} - \frac{q_0^2}{Q^2(P+Q)^2} \right] \quad (3.7)$$

and

$$A_{\text{typ}} = A_{\text{typ}}^{(0)} + A_{\text{typ}}^{(1)} + A_{\text{typ}}^{(2)} - M^4 \not\!\!\!\int_{PQ} \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^4(P^2 + M^2)} \left[\frac{q_0^2}{Q^4} - \frac{q_0^2}{Q^2(P+Q)^2} \right]. \quad (3.8)$$

We then identify P as soft to get $A_{\text{typ}}^{(3)}$ as

$$A_{\text{typ}}^{(3)} = -M^4 \not\!\!\!\int_{PQ} \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^4(P^2 + M^2)} q_0^2 \left[\frac{P^2}{Q^6} - \frac{4(P \cdot Q)^2}{Q^8} \right] = \frac{1}{d-1} M^2 J_{1a} \not\!\!\!\int_Q \frac{q_0^2}{Q^6}, \quad (3.9)$$

where we have expanded the denominator $(P+Q)^2$ in powers of the ratio of P and Q , replaced $\delta_{p_0}(P \cdot Q)^2$ by $\delta_{p_0} p^2 q^2 / (d-1)$ and integrated by parts in q . It is not hard to see that $A_{\text{typ}}^{(0)}$, $A_{\text{typ}}^{(1)}$, $A_{\text{typ}}^{(2)}$, and $A_{\text{typ}}^{(3)}$ are of orders 1, g , g^2 , and g^3 , respectively, in four spacetime dimensions.

For a two-loop diagram, there is an extra factor $g_b^2 = \mu^{-2\epsilon} Z_g^2 g^2$ multiplying A_{typ} . Thus, $A_{\text{typ}}^{(1)}$ and $A_{\text{typ}}^{(3)}$ contribute to the g^5 part of F . Therefore, the above asymptotic expansion of A_{typ} demonstrates how we extract the g^5 order contributions to the free energy density from two-loop diagrams.

C. Three-loop Diagrams

We now turn to the three-loop diagrams. Previously [4], the Debye mass in the resummed propagator (2.12) has been ignored for the three-loop diagrams since after reorganizing perturbation theory the three-loop diagrams are infrared finite if we set the Debye mass to zero. Now, since we need to explore one more order, the subleading terms need to be extracted. Since the Debye mass only appears in the static gluon propagator and is only probed by soft momenta of order gT , the sum-integrals that we need to deal with contain at most two frequency sums and at least one soft-momentum integral.

Three different cases appear:

(1) Case one is where we have pure three-dimensional triple-momentum integrals with the Debye mass being the only mass scale. Since there are three loops, there is a prefactor $g^4 T^3$ for these triple-momentum integrals. Thus, these three-dimensional triple-momentum integrals will give a result proportional to the Debye mass to make up for the missing mass dimension, *i.e.*, they contribute to the free energy density at order $g^4 T^3 M \propto g^5 T^4$. These pure three-dimensional three-loop integrals are one of the new features which we encounter in the g^5 order calculation. Their evaluations are provided in Appendix C.

(2) The second case we consider is where the sum-integral contains only one sum and two three-dimensional soft-momentum integrals. Thus, in this case there is only one hard loop momentum integral. Neglecting the soft momentum relative to the hard momentum enables us to decouple the three-loop integral into a product of a one-loop sum-integral and a two-loop pure three-dimensional momentum integral, which can be evaluated by standard methods. In fact, we can show that these do not contribute to the free energy density at order g^5 . The point is that a two-loop three-dimensional momentum integral produces a result proportional to the Debye mass to an even power. Since only soft-momentum integrals generate odd powers in g , this case is not relevant to the g^5 order evaluation.

(3) Finally, we need to consider the case where two sum-integrals and one soft-momentum integral are involved. Again, for the hard-momentum sum-integral, it is valid to neglect the

soft momentum compared to the hard one. This leads to a product of a two-loop sum-integral and a one-loop three-dimensional momentum integral. With the methods developed in Ref. [4], we can evaluate the two-loop sum-integrals. However, it turns out that after we sum up all the pieces contributing to free energy density at g^5 order, all the overlapping double sum-integrals cancel and only the non-overlapping double sum-integrals, which can be written as a product of two one-loop sum-integrals, survive. This observation was already made earlier for the case of QED [5].

As a concrete example, let us consider the simplest three-loop diagram, the basketball diagram (j) in Fig. 2. Applying the Feynman rules gives

$$\begin{aligned}
-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_j = & \frac{3}{16} d(d-1) g^4 d_A C_A^2 I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bb}} + \frac{3(d-1)}{8} g^4 d_A C_A^2 \oint_{PQK} \left[\left(\frac{1-\delta_{p_0}}{P^2} + \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2+M^2} \right) \right. \\
& \times \left. \left(\frac{1-\delta_{q_0}}{Q^2} + \frac{\delta_{q_0}}{Q^2+M^2} \right) - \frac{1}{P^2 Q^2} \right] \frac{1}{K^2 (P+Q+K)^2}. \quad (3.10)
\end{aligned}$$

The definition of $I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bb}}$ may be found in Appendix B. It is convenient to rewrite the expression above as

$$\begin{aligned}
-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_j = & \frac{3}{8} (d-1) g^4 d_A C_A^2 \left\{ \frac{1}{2} d I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bb}} \right. \\
& + \oint_{PQK} \delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0} \delta_{k_0} \left[\frac{1}{(P^2+M^2)(Q^2+M^2)} - \frac{1}{P^2 Q^2} \right] \frac{1}{K^2 (P+Q+K)^2} \\
& + \oint_{PQK} \left(\frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2+M^2} - \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2} \right) \left(\frac{\delta_{q_0}}{Q^2+M^2} - \frac{\delta_{q_0}}{Q^2} \right) \frac{1-\delta_{k_0}}{K^2 (P+Q+K)^2} \\
& \left. + 2 \oint_{PQK} \left(\frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2+M^2} - \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2} \right) \frac{1-\delta_{q_0} \delta_{k_0}}{Q^2 K^2 (P+Q+K)^2} \right\}. \quad (3.11)
\end{aligned}$$

Let us consider each term at the right-hand side of Eq. (3.11) above. The first term, involving $I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bb}}$, is of order g^4 and represents the leading contribution of many three-loop diagrams and has been evaluated in Ref. [4].

Recall that we listed three cases in the general treatment of the three-loop diagrams. The second, third, and fourth terms correspond to these three cases, respectively:

The second term is a three-loop pure three-dimensional momentum integral. This is the first case discussed above. We encounter a class of these three-dimensional integrals which are defined in Appendix B and computed in Appendix C.

The third term involves two soft-momentum integrals corresponding to the second case. Since K is hard, it is valid to neglect P, Q compared to K to write this third term as

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{3(d-1)}{8} g^4 d_A C_A^2 \oint_{PQ} \delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0} \left(\frac{1}{P^2+M^2} - \frac{1}{P^2} \right) \left(\frac{1}{Q^2+M^2} - \frac{1}{Q^2} \right) \oint_K \frac{1}{K^4} \\ &= \frac{3(d-1)}{8} g^4 d_A C_A^2 J_{1a}^2 \oint_K \frac{1}{K^4} \end{aligned} \quad (3.12)$$

which is of order g^6 as what we have expected (even power in g).

The fourth term corresponds to the third case where P is the soft momentum since P needs to resolve the Debye mass M . Therefore, as described above, we can approximate $(P+Q+K)^2$ as $(Q+K)^2$ (the case where $q_0+k_0=0$ and $|\vec{q}+\vec{k}|$ is soft contributes only at order g^6 because of phase space suppression). Now, the P integral decouples from the Q, K sum-integral. Therefore the fourth term in (3.11) can be expressed as a product of a single three-dimensional momentum integral and a double sum-integral:

$$\frac{3(d-1)}{4} g^4 d_A C_A^2 J_{1a} I_{\text{sun}}^b, \quad (3.13)$$

where we have introduced I_{sun}^b as

$$I_{\text{sun}}^b \equiv \oint_{QK} \frac{1}{Q^2 K^2 (Q+K)^2} \quad (3.14)$$

and omitted the term vanishing in dimensional regularization.

Therefore, we have explicitly shown how to extract the order g^5 contribution to the free energy density from a simple three-loop diagram. These order g^5 contributions are expressed as either three-loop pure three-dimensional momentum integrals or as products of a single three-dimensional soft-momentum integral and a double sum-integral. For other three-loop diagrams, parallel steps can be followed except for possibly more elaborate expressions; of course, we need to introduce more double sum-integrals and pure three-dimensional momentum integrals. However, as mentioned before, when we add up all the pieces contributing to the free energy at order g^5 from the three-loop diagrams, these double sum-integrals cancel except for the “non-overlapping” sum-integrals that can be expressed as a product of two single sum-integrals. We do not know a fundamental reason which leads to this cancellation.

IV. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Combining the results for all the diagrams listed in Appendix A produces the final result for the free energy density through order g^5 in four spacetime dimensions as

$$\begin{aligned}
F = d_A T^4 \frac{\pi^2}{9} \Bigg\{ & -\frac{1}{5} \left(1 + \frac{7d_F}{4d_A} \right) + \left(\frac{g}{4\pi} \right)^2 \left(C_A + \frac{5}{2} S_F \right) \\
& - 48 \left(\frac{g}{4\pi} \right)^3 \left(\frac{C_A + S_F}{3} \right)^{3/2} - 48 \left(\frac{g}{4\pi} \right)^4 C_A (C_A + S_F) \ln \left(\frac{g}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{C_A + S_F}{3}} \right) \\
& + \left(\frac{g}{4\pi} \right)^4 \left[C_A^2 \left(\frac{22}{3} \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} + \frac{38}{3} \frac{\zeta'(-3)}{\zeta(-3)} - \frac{148}{3} \frac{\zeta'(-1)}{\zeta(-1)} - 4\gamma_E + \frac{64}{5} \right) \right. \\
& \quad + C_A S_F \left(\frac{47}{3} \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} + \frac{1}{3} \frac{\zeta'(-3)}{\zeta(-3)} - \frac{74}{3} \frac{\zeta'(-1)}{\zeta(-1)} - 8\gamma_E + \frac{1759}{60} + \frac{37}{5} \ln 2 \right) \\
& \quad + S_F^2 \left(-\frac{20}{3} \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} + \frac{8}{3} \frac{\zeta'(-3)}{\zeta(-3)} - \frac{16}{3} \frac{\zeta'(-1)}{\zeta(-1)} - 4\gamma_E - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{88}{5} \ln 2 \right) \\
& \quad \left. + S_{2F} \left(-\frac{105}{4} + 24 \ln 2 \right) \right] \\
& - \left(\frac{g}{4\pi} \right)^5 \left(\frac{C_A + S_F}{3} \right)^{1/2} \left[C_A^2 \left(176 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} + 176\gamma_E - 24\pi^2 - 494 + 264 \ln 2 \right) \right. \\
& \quad + C_A S_F \left(112 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} + 112\gamma_E + 72 - 128 \ln 2 \right) \\
& \quad + S_F^2 \left(-64 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} - 64\gamma_E + 32 - 128 \ln 2 \right) \\
& \quad \left. - 144 S_{2F} \right] + O(g^6) \Bigg\}, \tag{4.1}
\end{aligned}$$

where ζ is Riemann's zeta function and γ_E is the Euler-Mascheroni constant.

For QCD with n_f quark flavors, to g^5 order, the free energy density is

$$\begin{aligned}
F = & -\frac{8\pi^2 T^4}{45} \Bigg\{ 1 + \frac{21}{32} n_f - 0.09499 g^2 \left(1 + \frac{5}{12} n_f \right) + 0.12094 g^3 \left(1 + \frac{1}{6} n_f \right)^{3/2} \\
& + g^4 \left[0.08662 \left(1 + \frac{1}{6} n_f \right) \ln \left(g \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{6} n_f} \right) - 0.01323 \left(1 + \frac{5}{12} n_f \right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{33} n_f \right) \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{T} \right. \\
& \quad \left. + 0.01733 - 0.00763 n_f - 0.00088 n_f^2 \right] \\
& + g^5 \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{6} n_f} \left[0.02527 \left(1 + \frac{1}{6} n_f \right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{33} n_f \right) \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{T} \right. \\
& \quad \left. - 0.12806 - 0.00717 n_f + 0.00027 n_f^2 \right] + O(g^6) \Bigg\}, \tag{4.2}
\end{aligned}$$

where we have evaluated the coefficients numerically.

For QED with n_f charged fermions with charges $q_i e$, the fifth-order free energy density may be read from the expression above on using (2.5)

$$F_{\text{QED}}^{(5)} = \frac{\pi^2 T^4}{9\sqrt{3}} \left(\sum q_i^2 \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{e}{4\pi} \right)^5 \left[\left(\sum q_i^2 \right)^2 \left(64 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} + 64\gamma_E - 32 + 128 \ln 2 \right) + 144 \sum q_i^4 \right]. \quad (4.3)$$

Taking $\mu = T$, it is not hard to check that this result agrees with Ref. [5].

As in Ref. [4], we now check whether the perturbative expansion of the QCD free energy density behaves well for physically realized values of couplings to g^5 order. Although the free energy does not have any renormalization scale μ dependence, the partial sum does so. If the perturbative expansion is well behaved, including higher-order corrections into the partial sum reduces the μ dependence. The inclusion of the g^5 order term in the partial sum compensates the μ dependence of the g^3 term*. Besides looking at the μ dependence of the partial sums, we also compare the size of the contributions from each order.

Define $\alpha_s(T) \equiv g^2(T)/(4\pi)$. Fig. 3 shows the result for six-flavor QCD when $\alpha_s(T)=0.1$ (which corresponds to scales of order a few 100 GeV). The free energy density is plotted vs the choice of renormalization scale $\bar{\mu}$. We have taken

$$\frac{1}{g^2(\bar{\mu})} \approx \frac{1}{g^2(T)} - \beta_0 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{T} + \frac{\beta_1}{\beta_0} \ln \left(1 - \beta_0 g^2(T) \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{T} \right), \quad (4.4)$$

where

$$\beta_0 = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left(-\frac{22}{3} C_A + \frac{8}{3} S_F \right), \quad \beta_1 = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^4} \left(-\frac{68}{3} C_A^2 + \frac{40}{3} C_A S_F + 8 S_{2F} \right). \quad (4.5)$$

In Ref. [4], it was found that including the g^4 term does not make the partial sum for the free energy density less dependent on the renormalization scale. There, one of the main sources of the μ dependence is the g^3 term which requires the order g^5 term to balance its

*In Ref. [4], with the help of the renormalization group a $g^5 \ln \bar{\mu}/T$ was introduced to compensate for the μ dependence due to the g^3 term. We note that our present g^5 order result correctly produces this desired $g^5 \ln \bar{\mu}/T$ term.

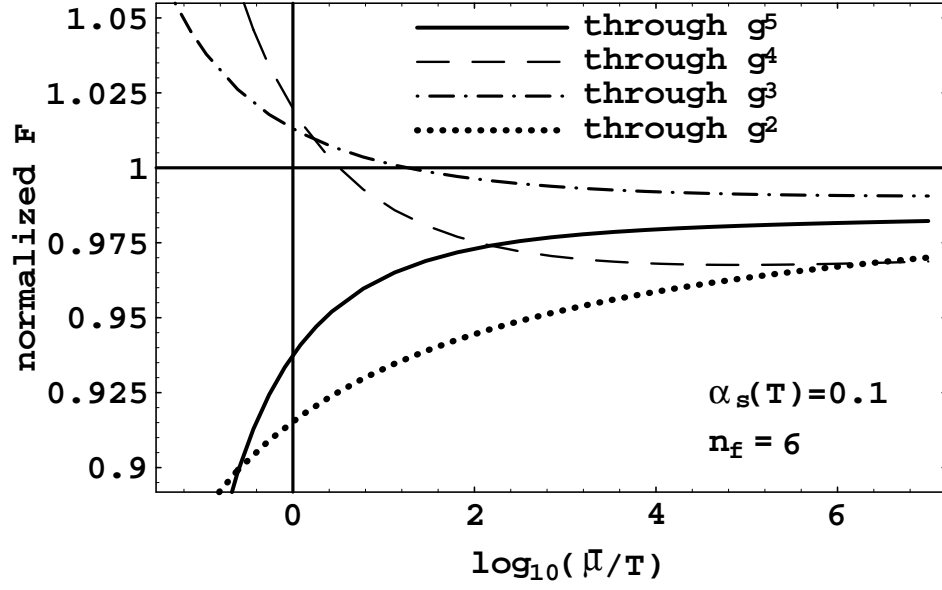


FIG. 3. The dependence of the free energy density F on the choice of renormalization scale $\bar{\mu}$ for six-flavor QCD with $\alpha_s(T) = 0.1$. The free energy density is normalized in units of the ideal gas result $-(\frac{1}{45}d_A + \frac{7}{180}d_F)\pi^2 T^4$. The dotted, dot-dashed, dashed, and solid lines are the results for F including terms through orders g^2 , g^3 , g^4 , and g^5 , respectively.

renormalization scale dependence. According to Fig. 3, inclusion of the g^5 term in the partial sum does not generally make this sum less dependent on μ and the perturbative expansion does not behave well in this respect. For $\bar{\mu} = T$, the terms at each order are

$$F = -\frac{79\pi^2 T^4}{90} \left[1 - 0.0846 + 0.0976 + (0.0255 + 0 - 0.0192) + (0 - 0.0818) + O(g^6) \right]. \quad (4.6)$$

For this value of α_s , the g^2 and g^3 terms have about the same size. This does not necessarily mean that perturbation theory does not work well since the g^3 term is the leading term of new physics at the scale of gT instead of being a correction to the g^2 term. If the corrections at g^4 and g^5 are smaller than the g^2 and g^3 terms, perturbation theory may still work well. However, the numerical values above show that the g^5 term appears not to be generally smaller than the g^3 term. Therefore, perturbation theory seems not to work well for this value of α_s which corresponds to QCD at the electroweak scale.

Fig. 4 shows the μ dependence for $\alpha_s(T) = 0.02$ without any fermions, *i.e.*, with $n_f = 0$.

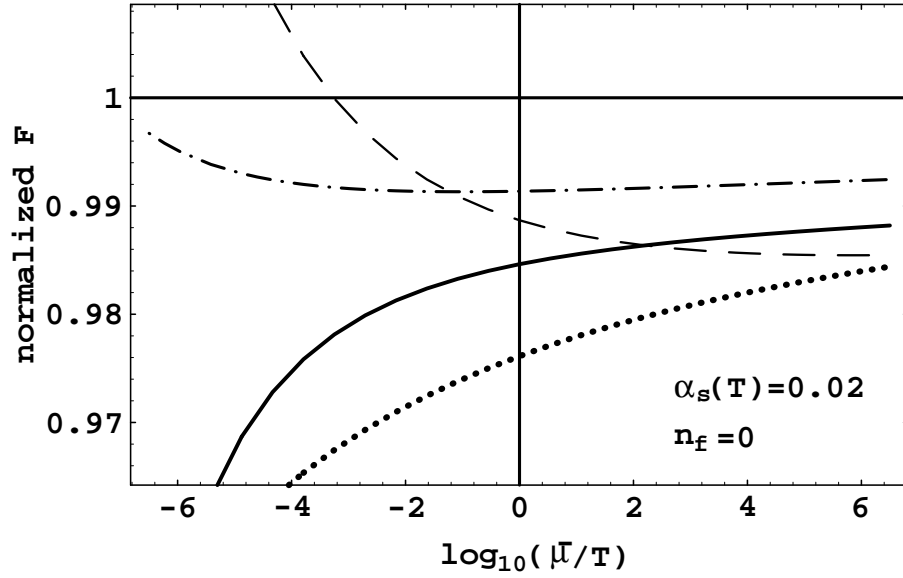


FIG. 4. The same as Fig. 3 but for $\alpha_s(T) = 0.02$ without fermions.

This is interesting since it is [see Eq. (2.4)] equivalent to pure SU(2), *i.e.*, electroweak gauge theory at the electroweak scale, with $\alpha_w \approx 1/33$. It is not hard to see that the g^5 order free energy density is less sensitive to the renormalization scale than the g^4 order free energy density. However, the free energy density through g^5 order is not more stable than the result through g^3 order. This is due to a large cancellation between the g^3 term and the g^2 term. Here are the values for the contributions at each order to the free energy density for the choice $\bar{\mu} = T$:

$$F = -\frac{d_A \pi^2 T^4}{45} \left[1 - 0.0239 + 0.0152 + (-0.00378 + 0 + 0.00109) + (0 - 0.00406) + O(g^6) \right]. \quad (4.7)$$

Obviously, the corrections at orders g^4 and g^5 are smaller than the g^2 and g^3 terms. This suggests that perturbation theory works.

In Fig. 5 we show a similar plot for $n_f = 6$ and $\alpha_s(T) = 0.001$ where the behavior of the perturbative expansion is good. In Fig. 6, we provide the corresponding plot for $\alpha_s(T) = 0.2$ but $n_f = 5$ (for T being several GeV).

We like to comment on the absence of the $g^5 \ln g$ term in the expansion of the free energy

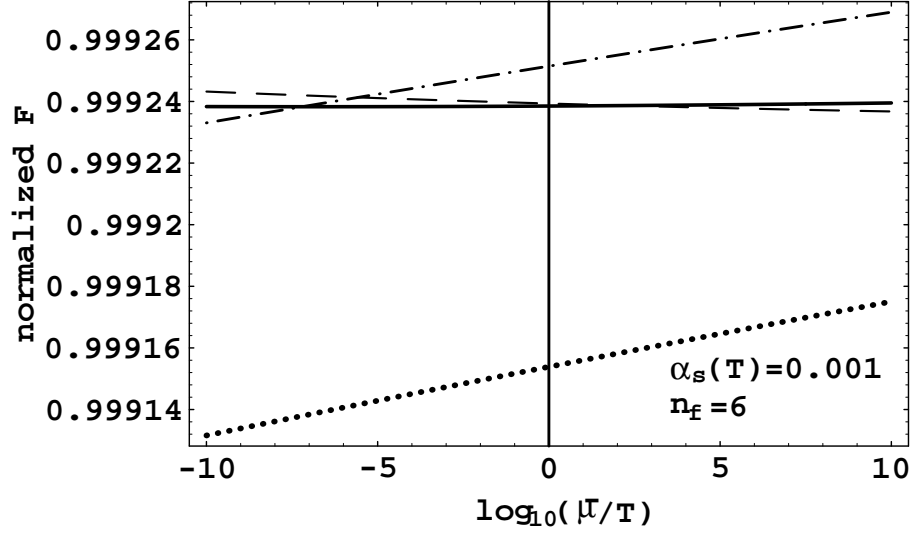


FIG. 5. The same as Fig. 3 but for $\alpha_s(T) = 0.001$.

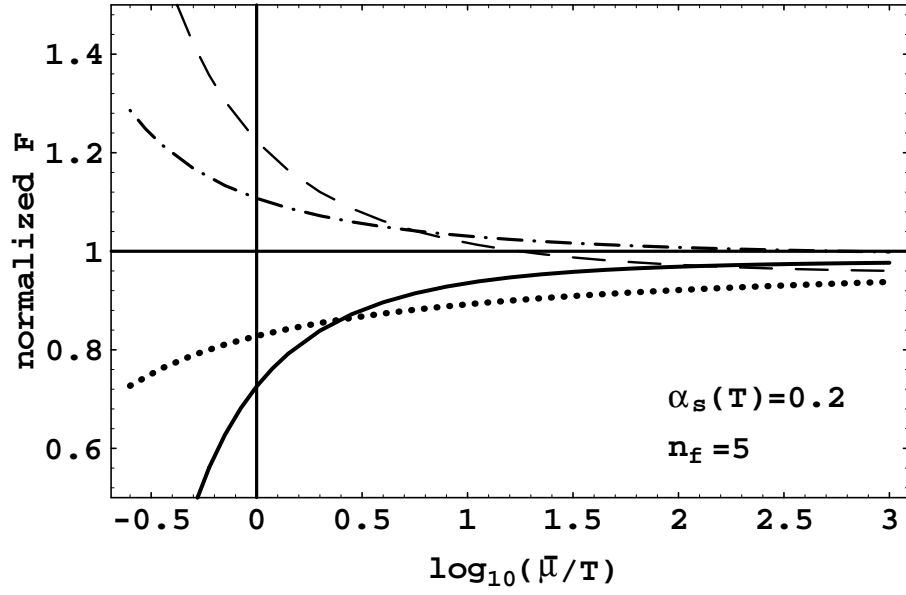


FIG. 6. The same as Fig. 3 but for $\alpha_s(T) = 0.2$ and $n_f = 5$.

density. It is convenient to view the contributions to the free energy at each order with an effective field theory technique as was done in Refs. [10]. In hot gauge theories, there are three relevant scales in the imaginary time formalism: T , gT , and g^2T . The scale T is related to the nonstatic fields while gT is the scale for the Debye screening effect. The scale g^2T is believed to be the inverse of the magnetic screening length which cures the remaining infrared problem of hot non-Abelian gauge theories. Since the g^2T scale contributes to the free energy starting only at order g^6 , we can ignore it. Imagine first integrating out the nonstatic fields (scale T physics) to arrive at an effective field theory which correctly describes physics in the low energy region (of order gT). Let Λ be the cutoff separating the scales T and gT . Integrating out the nonstatic fields gives a contribution to the free energy density $f(T, \Lambda, g^2)$ which has an even power expansion in g since no resummation is required. Integrating out these nonstatic fields also generates effective interaction terms for the static fields. This introduces a dependence on the cutoff Λ into the bare parameters of the effective field theory for the static fields at scale gT with cutoff Λ . An $\ln g$ term arises only through the logarithm of the ratio of the scales gT and T , *i.e.*, through cancellation between $\ln \Lambda/T$ and $\ln \Lambda/(gT)$. $\ln \Lambda/T$ terms enter the free energy density through $f(T, \Lambda, g^2)$ and the bare parameters of the effective theory for the static field at scale gT . It can be shown that there are only two parameters relevant to the free energy density through g^5 , the effective mass and the effective coupling constant [10]. Since the coupling constant in the (superrenormalizable) effective theory requires no renormalization, there will be no $\ln \Lambda/T$ appearing inside the effective coupling. Since $f(T, \Lambda, g^2)$ has an even power expansion in g , a $g^5 \ln g$ term comes only from the cancellation between an $\ln \Lambda/T$ term in the effective mass term and another $\ln \Lambda/(gT)$ coming from the evaluations of the effective theory. Therefore, the absence of the $g^5 \ln g$ term means that there is no $\ln \Lambda/T$ at order g^4 in the effective mass term which has been examined explicitly in Ref. [11]. In other words, this effective mass has vanishing anomalous dimension and does not “run” at the leading order as we vary the cutoff Λ [12]. In fact, at the next-to-leading order, the effective mass does “run” [13].

As an outlook, it would be interesting to investigate the reasons for the cancellation

of overlapping double-frequency sums as well as for the absence of a $g^5 \ln g$ term in F . It would further be worthwhile to include scalar fields and to consider the case of non-vanishing chemical potential.

Note added: Recently, using a different method, Braaten and Nieto have confirmed our result [15].

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APPENDIX A: RESULTS FOR INDIVIDUAL DIAGRAMS

Here are the contributions to the free energy density through g^5 order from individual diagrams in Fig. 2. The newly appearing symbols are defined in Appendix B.

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_a = -\frac{1}{2} d_A d \not\!\!\!\!\!\int_P \ln P^2 - d_A \frac{1}{d-1} M^2 J_{1a} \quad (A1)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_b = d_A \not\!\!\!\!\!\int_P \ln P^2 \quad (A2)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_c = \frac{1}{2} d_A M^2 J_{1a} \quad (A3)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_d = -\frac{Z_g^2 g^2}{4} d_A C_A (d-1) (db_1^2 + 2J_{1a} b_1) \quad (A4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} -\mu^{2\epsilon} F_e = & -\frac{Z_g^2 g^2}{24} d_A C_A \{-18(d-1)b_1^2 + 6(d-1)(2d-7)J_{1a}b_1 \\ & + 6[J_{1a}^2 + 4M^2 J_{2a} + 4M^2 A_1^b - 2(2d-3)M^2 A_2^b] \\ & + (2d^2 - 13d + 39)M^2 J_{1a}b_2\} + O(g^6) \end{aligned} \quad (A5)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_f = -\frac{Z_g^2 g^2}{24} d_A C_A [6b_1^2 - 6(d-3)J_{1a}b_1 + 12M^2 A_2^b - (d-5)M^2 J_{1a}b_2] + O(g^6) \quad (A6)$$

$$\begin{aligned} -\mu^{2\epsilon} F_g = & \frac{g^4}{32} d_A C_A^2 \{(20d-23)I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bb}} \\ & + 4J_{1a}[4I_{\text{sun}}^b + (16d-23)I_{2a} - (16d-28)I_{2b} - 2(4d-7)(d-3)b_1b_2] \\ & + 2(3J_{3a} + 4J_{3b} + 16J_{3c} - 36J_{3e} + 16J_{3i} + 12J_{3j} - 12J_{1a}J_{2a})\} + O(g^6) \end{aligned} \quad (A7)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_h = \frac{g^4}{16} d_A C_A^2 \{-I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bb}} + 4J_{1a}[-I_{2a} + 2I_{2b} + (d-3)b_1b_2]\} + O(g^6) \quad (A8)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_i = -\frac{g^4}{32} d_A C_A^2 (I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bb}} + 4J_{1a}I_{2a}) + O(g^6) \quad (A9)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_j = \frac{3g^4}{16} d_A C_A^2 (d-1)(dI_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bb}} + 4J_{1a}I_{\text{sun}}^b + 2J_{3b}) + O(g^6) \quad (A10)$$

$$\begin{aligned} -\mu^{2\epsilon} F_k = & \frac{3g^4}{16} d_A C_A^2 \{-9(d-1)I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bb}} - 12J_{1a}[I_{\text{sun}}^b + (2d-3)I_{2a}] \\ & + 4(-2J_{3b} + 3J_{3e} - J_{3j} + J_{1a}J_{2a})\} + O(g^6) \end{aligned} \quad (A11)$$

$$\begin{aligned} -\mu^{2\epsilon} F_l = & \frac{1}{4} I_{qcd} - \frac{g^4}{4} d_A C_A J_{1a} \\ & \times \{C_A[(3d-10)I_{\text{sun}}^b - (10d-12)I_{2a} - 8(d-2)I_{2b} - 2(d-2)(d^2-6d+6)b_1b_2] \\ & + S_F[-4(d-4)I_{\text{sun}}^f + 16(d-3)I_{2c} + 32I_{2d} + 8(d^2-6d+6)f_1b_2]\} \\ & + \frac{g^4}{16} d_A C_A^2 \left[-2(d-3)\frac{J_{1a}^3}{M^2} + 4J_{1a} \left(-\frac{3d-5}{d-2}J_{2a} + 4\frac{d-3}{d-2}J_{2c} + 8J_{2d} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{d-2} J_{3a} + 2 \frac{5d-11}{d-2} J_{3b} + \frac{8}{d-2} J_{3c} - 64 J_{3e} + 64 J_{3f} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{16}{d-2} J_{3g} - 8 \frac{3d-5}{d-2} J_{3h} \right) + O(g^6) \quad (A12)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_m = -\frac{g^4}{8} d_A C_A^2 (I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bb}} + 4 J_{1a} I_{2a}) + O(g^6) \quad (A13)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_n = 2 d_F \sum_{\{P\}} \ln P^2 \quad (A14)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_o = -\frac{Z_g^2 g^2}{3} d_A S_F [3(d-2)(f_1^2 - 2b_1 f_1) - 6(d-2) J_{1a} f_1 - 3M^2(A_1^f - 4A_2^f) \\ -(d-2)M^2 J_{1a} f_2] + O(g^6) \quad (A15)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_p = \frac{g^4}{4} d_A (2S_{2F} - C_A S_F)(d-2)[2(d-4)I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bf}} - (d-6)I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{ff}} + 8(b_1 - f_1)I_{\text{sun}}^f \\ + 4J_{1a}I_{\text{sun}}^f + 16J_{1a}I_{2e}] + O(g^6) \quad (A16)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_q = g^4 d_A S_{2F} \{(d-2)^2[2H_3 - I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bf}} - (b_1 - f_1)^2 f_2] \\ + 2(d-2)J_{1a}[-I_{\text{sun}}^f - 4I_{2e} + (4-d)(b_1 - f_1)f_2]\} + O(g^6) \quad (A17)$$

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F_r = g^4 d_A C_A S_F \{(d-2)[I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bf}} + 2(b_1 - f_1)I_{\text{sun}}^f] \\ + 4J_{1a}[(d-3)I_{2c} + 2I_{2d} + (d-2)I_{2e} + (d-3)f_1 b_2]\} + O(g^6) \quad (A18)$$

The sum of those parts in the contributions above that lead to g^5 (and potentially $g^5 \ln g$) terms as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ is

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F^{(5)} = -\frac{1}{12} d_A M^2 J_{1a} \{6(Z_g^2 - 1) + g^2[(d^2 - 13d + 58)C_A b_2 - 4(d-2)S_F f_2]\} \\ - 2g^4(d-2)(d-4)d_A S_{2F} J_{1a}(b_1 - f_1)f_2 \\ + g^4 d_A C_A^2 \left\{ -\frac{d-3}{8} \frac{J_{1a}^3}{M^2} + J_{1a} \left[-\frac{3d-5}{4(d-2)} J_{2a} + \frac{d-3}{d-2} J_{2c} + 2J_{2d} \right] \right. \\ \left. + \left[\frac{3d-5}{16(d-2)} J_{3a} + \frac{(d-3)(3d-5)}{8(d-2)} J_{3b} + \frac{2d-3}{2(d-2)} J_{3c} \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. - 4J_{3e} + 4J_{3f} + \frac{1}{d-2} J_{3g} - \frac{3d-5}{2(d-2)} J_{3h} + J_{3i} \right] \right\}, \quad (A19)$$

where Z_g^2 should be used up to order g^2 . Using the identities of Appendix B we can simplify this expression and get

$$-\mu^{2\epsilon} F^{(5)} = -\frac{1}{12} d_A M^2 J_{1a} \{6(Z_g^2 - 1) + g^2[(d^2 - 13d + 58)C_A b_2 - 4(d-2)S_F f_2]\}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& -2g^4(d-2)(d-4)d_{\text{A}}S_{2\text{F}}J_{1\text{a}}(b_1-f_1)f_2 \\
& +g^4d_{\text{A}}C_{\text{A}}^2\left\{\frac{3d^2-24d+37}{8(d-7)(d-5)^2}J_{3\text{a}}+\frac{(d-3)^3(3d-14)}{4(d-5)(d-4)(2d-9)}J_{3\text{b}}\right. \\
& \quad \left.-\frac{(d^5-23d^4+199d^3-809d^2+1548d-1132)(d-3)}{8(d-7)(d-5)^2(d-4)^2}\frac{J_{1\text{a}}^3}{M^2}\right\}. \quad (\text{A20})
\end{aligned}$$

Note that for this term the cancellation of overlapping double-frequency sum-integrals still holds outside of $d = 4$. Using the results of Appendix B it is further easy to see how the $1/\epsilon$ terms associated with the scales T and gT cancel separately so that for $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ no $g^5 \ln g$ term arises in F .

APPENDIX B: BASIC INTEGRALS

Here we give the definitions for the integrals appearing in our derivations. In the next subsection, we first provide the definitions of the sum-integrals which have been evaluated in Ref. [4] and give the results for those that are relevant for the g^5 term of the free energy density. Then we define and give the results for five additional two-loop sum-integrals which appear in the result of individual diagrams but cancel each other after summing up the diagrams. In the second subsection, the definitions of and results for the three-dimensional integrals arising in the g^5 evaluation are given. They are evaluated in Appendix C.

1. Some Sum-integrals

Here is a list of integrals evaluated in Refs. [14,5]. One-loop integrals are

$$\begin{aligned}
b_n & \equiv \oint_P \frac{1}{P^{2n}} = \frac{(2\pi T)^{4-2n}}{8\pi^{5/2}} \left(\frac{\mu^2}{\pi T^2} \right)^\epsilon \frac{\Gamma(n - \frac{3}{2} + \epsilon) \zeta(2n - 3 + 2\epsilon)}{\Gamma(n)} \\
f_n & \equiv \oint_{\{P\}} \frac{1}{P^{2n}} = (2^{2n-3+2\epsilon} - 1)b_n. \quad (\text{B1})
\end{aligned}$$

The relevant cases are

$$\begin{aligned}
b_1 & = \frac{T^2}{12} \left[1 + 2\epsilon \left(1 + \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} + \frac{\zeta'(-1)}{\zeta(-1)} \right) \right] + O(\epsilon^2) \\
b_2 & = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon} + 2\gamma_{\text{E}} + 2 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} \right) + O(\epsilon)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
f_1 &= -\frac{T^2}{24} \left[1 + 2\epsilon \left(1 - \ln 2 + \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} + \frac{\zeta'(-1)}{\zeta(-1)} \right) \right] + O(\epsilon^2) \\
f_2 &= \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon} + 2\gamma_E + 4 \ln 2 + 2 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} \right) + O(\epsilon).
\end{aligned} \tag{B2}$$

Two-loop sum-integrals are

$$\begin{aligned}
I_{\text{sun}}^{\text{b}} &\equiv \oint_{PQ} \frac{1}{P^2 Q^2 (P+Q)^2} = 0 \\
I_{\text{sun}}^{\text{f}} &\equiv \oint_{P\{Q\}} \frac{1}{P^2 Q^2 (P+Q)^2} = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{B3}$$

Three-loop integrals are

$$\begin{aligned}
I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bb}} &\equiv \oint_{PQK} \frac{1}{P^2 Q^2 K^2 (P+Q+K)^2} \\
I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{bf}} &\equiv \oint_{PQ\{K\}} \frac{1}{P^2 Q^2 K^2 (P+Q+K)^2} \\
I_{\text{ball}}^{\text{ff}} &\equiv \oint_{\{P\}\{Q\}\{K\}} \frac{1}{P^2 Q^2 K^2 (P+Q+K)^2} \\
H_3 &\equiv \oint_{\{P\}QK} \frac{Q \cdot K}{P^2 Q^2 K^2 (P+Q)^2 (P+K)^2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{B4}$$

Now we define some integrals that were computed in Ref. [4] but not explicitly defined:

$$\begin{aligned}
A_1^{\text{b}} &\equiv \oint_{PQ} \frac{\delta_{p_0}(1 - \delta_{q_0})}{P^2 Q^2 (P+Q)^2} \\
A_2^{\text{b}} &\equiv \oint_{PQ} \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^4} \left[\frac{q_0^2}{Q^4} - \frac{q_0^2}{Q^2 (P+Q)^2} \right] \\
A_1^{\text{f}} &\equiv \oint_{P\{Q\}} \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2 Q^2 (P+Q)^2} \\
A_2^{\text{f}} &\equiv \oint_{P\{Q\}} \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^4} \left[\frac{q_0^2}{Q^4} - \frac{q_0^2}{Q^2 (P+Q)^2} \right] \\
I_{\text{qcd}} &\equiv \oint_P \frac{1}{P^4} \text{tr} [\Pi_{\mu\nu}(P) - \Pi_{\mu\nu}(0)]^2,
\end{aligned} \tag{B5}$$

where the values for the first four integrals may be found in the evaluations of $\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3$ in Ref. [4] and I_{qcd} may be expressed in terms of $I_{\text{qcd}}^{\text{bb}}, I_{\text{qcd}}^{\text{bf}}$, and $I_{\text{qcd}}^{\text{ff}}$ there.

The following five two-loop sum-integrals appear only in individual diagrams but not in the final result for the free energy density. They can be evaluated using the methods introduced in [4]. Here we only give the definitions and the values of these five integrals.

$$\begin{aligned}
I_{2a} &\equiv \oint_{PQ} \frac{p_0^2}{P^4 Q^2 (P+Q)^2} = 0 \\
I_{2b} &\equiv \oint_{PQ} \frac{q_0^2}{P^4 Q^2 (P+Q)^2} = \frac{T^2}{12(4\pi)^2} + O(\epsilon) \\
I_{2c} &\equiv \oint_{P\{Q\}} \frac{p_0^2}{P^4 Q^2 (P+Q)^2} = -\frac{T^2}{12(4\pi)^2} \left[\frac{3}{4\epsilon} + \frac{3}{4} + \frac{3}{2}\gamma_E + \frac{5}{2} \ln 2 + 3 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} + \frac{3}{2} \frac{\zeta'(-1)}{\zeta(-1)} \right] + O(\epsilon) \\
I_{2d} &\equiv \oint_{P\{Q\}} \frac{q_0^2}{P^4 Q^2 (P+Q)^2} = -\frac{T^2}{12(4\pi)^2} \left[\frac{3}{8\epsilon} + \frac{7}{8} + \frac{3}{4}\gamma_E + \frac{5}{4} \ln 2 + \frac{3}{2} \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{4\pi T} + \frac{3}{4} \frac{\zeta'(-1)}{\zeta(-1)} \right] + O(\epsilon) \\
I_{2e} &\equiv \oint_{\{P\}Q} \frac{p_0 q_0}{P^4 Q^2 (P+Q)^2} = \frac{T^2}{16(4\pi)^2} + O(\epsilon). \tag{B6}
\end{aligned}$$

2. Three-dimensional Momentum Integrals

Here is a list of our basic three-dimensional momentum integrals. We use dimensional regularization to control both the ultraviolet and the infrared divergences. Therefore, “three-dimensional momentum integrals” really means integrals in $3 - 2\epsilon$ dimensions. The steps for computing these integrals are provided in Appendix C.

$$\begin{aligned}
J_{1a} &\equiv \oint_P \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2 + M^2} \\
&= -\frac{TM}{4\pi} \left[1 + 2 \left(\ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + 1 \right) \epsilon + \left(2 \ln^2 \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + 4 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + 4 + \frac{\pi^2}{4} \right) \epsilon^2 \right] + O(\epsilon^3) \\
J_{2a} &\equiv \oint_{PQ} \frac{\delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0}}{(P^2 + M^2)(Q^2 + M^2)(P+Q)^2} = \frac{T^2}{(4\pi)^2} \left[\frac{1}{4\epsilon} + \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + \frac{1}{2} \right] + O(\epsilon) \\
J_{2b} &\equiv \oint_{PQ} \frac{\delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0}}{(P^2 + M^2)Q^2(P+Q)^2} = \frac{T^2}{(4\pi)^2} \left[\frac{1}{4\epsilon} + \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + \ln 2 + \frac{1}{2} \right] + O(\epsilon) \\
J_{2c} &\equiv \oint_{PQ} \frac{M^2 \delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0}}{P^4(Q^2 + M^2)[(P+Q)^2 + M^2]} = -\frac{1}{8} \frac{T^2}{(4\pi)^2} + O(\epsilon) \\
J_{2d} &\equiv \oint_{PQ} \frac{M^2 \delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0}}{(P^2 + M^2)^2(Q^2 + M^2)(P+Q)^2} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{T^2}{(4\pi)^2} + O(\epsilon) \\
J_{3a} &\equiv \oint_{PQK} \frac{\delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0} \delta_{k_0}}{(P^2 + M^2)(Q^2 + M^2)(K^2 + M^2)[(P+Q+K)^2 + M^2]} \\
&= -\frac{T^3 M}{(4\pi)^3} \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon} + 6 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} - 4 \ln 2 + 8 \right] + O(\epsilon) \\
J_{3b} &\equiv \oint_{PQK} \frac{\delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0} \delta_{k_0}}{(P^2 + M^2)(Q^2 + M^2)K^2(P+Q+K)^2} \\
&= -\frac{T^3 M}{2(4\pi)^3} \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon} + \left(6 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + 8 \right) + \left(18 \ln^2 \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + 48 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + 52 + \frac{25\pi^2}{12} \right) \epsilon \right] + O(\epsilon^2)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
J_{3c} &\equiv \oint_{PQK} \frac{M^2 \delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0} \delta_{k_0}}{K^2(P^2+M^2)(Q^2+M^2)[(K+P)^2+M^2][(K+Q)^2+M^2]} = \frac{T^3 M}{(4\pi)^3} \ln 2 + O(\epsilon) \\
J_{3d} &\equiv \oint_{PQK} \frac{M^2 \delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0} \delta_{k_0}}{K^2(P^2+M^2)(Q^2+M^2)(K+P)^2(K+Q)^2} = \frac{T^3 M}{(4\pi)^3} 2 \ln 2 + O(\epsilon) \\
J_{3e} &\equiv \oint_{PQK} \frac{M^2 \delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0} \delta_{k_0}}{(K^2+M^2)(P^2+M^2)(Q^2+M^2)(K+P)^2(K+Q)^2} = \frac{T^3 M}{(4\pi)^3} \frac{\pi^2}{12} + O(\epsilon) \\
J_{3f} &\equiv \oint_{PQK} \frac{M^4 \delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0} \delta_{k_0}}{(K^2+M^2)^2(P^2+M^2)(Q^2+M^2)(K+P)^2(K+Q)^2} = \frac{T^3 M}{(4\pi)^3} \left(\frac{\pi^2}{24} - \frac{1}{4} \right) + O(\epsilon) \\
J_{3g} &\equiv \oint_{PQK} \frac{M^4 \delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0} \delta_{k_0}}{K^4(P^2+M^2)(Q^2+M^2)[(K+P)^2+M^2][(K+Q)^2+M^2]} \\
&= -\frac{T^3 M}{(4\pi)^3} \left(\frac{1}{24} + \frac{\ln 2}{12} \right) + O(\epsilon) \\
J_{3h} &\equiv \oint_{PQK} \frac{M^2 \delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0} \delta_{k_0}}{K^2(P^2+M^2)[(K+P)^2+M^2]Q^2(K+Q)^2} = -\frac{T^3 M}{(4\pi)^3} \left[\frac{1}{8\epsilon} + \frac{3}{4} \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} - \frac{1}{4} \right] + O(\epsilon) \\
J_{3i} &\equiv \oint_{PQK} \frac{M^4 \delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0} \delta_{k_0}}{(P^2+M^2)[(P+K)^2+M^2](Q^2+M^2)[(Q+K)^2+M^2]K^2(P+Q+K)^2} \\
&= \frac{T^3 M}{(4\pi)^3} \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\ln 2}{4} \right) + O(\epsilon) \\
J_{3j} &\equiv \oint_{PQK} \frac{\delta_{p_0} \delta_{q_0} \delta_{k_0} (P \cdot Q)}{(K^2+M^2)(P^2+M^2)(Q^2+M^2)(K+P)^2(K+Q)^2} = -\frac{T^3 M}{(4\pi)^3} \left(\frac{\pi^2}{12} + \frac{1}{4} \right) + O(\epsilon)
\end{aligned} \tag{B7}$$

APPENDIX C: EVALUATION OF BASIC INTEGRALS

Here we will first evaluate J_{1a} , J_{3a} and J_{3b} and then express all other three-dimensional integrals appearing in the diagrams (a)–(r) in terms of these three.

1. J_{1a}

J_{1a} may be evaluated as

$$\begin{aligned}
J_{1a} &= T \mu^{2\epsilon} \int \frac{d^{3-2\epsilon} p}{(2\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \frac{1}{p^2 + M^2} = TM \left(\frac{\mu}{M} \right)^{2\epsilon} \int \frac{d^{3-2\epsilon} p}{(2\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \int_0^\infty ds e^{-s(p^2+1)} \\
&= TM \left(\frac{\mu}{M} \right)^{2\epsilon} \int_0^\infty ds s^{-3/2+\epsilon} e^{-s} = \frac{TM}{(4\pi)^{3/2}} \left(\frac{M^2}{4\pi\mu^2} \right)^{-\epsilon} \Gamma(-\tfrac{1}{2} + \epsilon) \\
&= -\frac{TM}{4\pi} \left[1 + 2 \left(\ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + 1 \right) \epsilon + \left(2 \ln^2 \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + 4 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + 4 + \frac{\pi^2}{4} \right) \epsilon^2 \right] + O(\epsilon^3). \tag{C1}
\end{aligned}$$

2. J_{3a} and J_{3b}

In dimensional regularization, we have

$$J_{3a} - 2J_{3b} = \oint_K \delta_{k_0} \left[\oint_P \left(\frac{\delta_{p_0}}{(P^2 + M^2)[(P + K)^2 + M^2]} - \frac{\delta_{p_0}}{P^2(P + K)^2} \right) \right]^2. \quad (C2)$$

We are now going to evaluate this difference using a method similar to the one applied in the appendix of the second reference of [10].

Since $J_{3a} - 2J_{3b}$ is both infrared and ultraviolet finite, we can go to three-dimensional coordinate space to get

$$J_{3a} - 2J_{3b} = T^3 \int d^3r \left[\frac{e^{-2Mr}}{(4\pi r)^2} - \frac{1}{(4\pi r)^2} \right]^2 + O(\epsilon), \quad (C3)$$

where we have used the Fourier transform

$$\int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{e^{i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{r}}}{p^2 + m^2} = \frac{e^{-mr}}{4\pi r} \quad (C4)$$

for $m = M$ and $m = 0$. Integrating by parts and using the identity

$$\int_0^\infty dr \frac{1}{r} (e^{-ar} - e^{-br}) = \ln \frac{b}{a} \quad (C5)$$

gives

$$J_{3a} - 2J_{3b} = \frac{T^3 M}{(4\pi)^3} 4 \ln 2 + O(\epsilon). \quad (C6)$$

J_{3b} may be evaluated as

$$\begin{aligned} J_{3b} &= T^3 M \left(\frac{\mu}{M} \right)^{6\epsilon} \int \frac{d^{3-2\epsilon}p}{(2\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \int \frac{d^{3-2\epsilon}q}{(2\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \frac{1}{q^2(q+p)^2} \int \frac{d^{3-2\epsilon}k}{(2\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \frac{1}{(k^2+1)[(k+p)^2+1]} \\ &= T^3 M \left(\frac{\mu}{M} \right)^{6\epsilon} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon\right)^2}{(4\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \int \frac{d^{3-2\epsilon}p}{(2\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \int_0^1 d\alpha [\alpha(1-\alpha)p^2]^{-1/2-\epsilon} \int_0^1 d\beta [\beta(1-\beta)p^2+1]^{-1/2-\epsilon} \\ &= T^3 M \left(\frac{\mu}{M} \right)^{6\epsilon} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon\right)^2}{(4\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \frac{B\left(\frac{1}{2}-\epsilon, \frac{1}{2}-\epsilon\right)}{(4\pi)^{3/2-\epsilon} \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}-\epsilon\right)} \int_0^1 d\beta \int_0^\infty dp^2 (p^2)^{-2\epsilon} [\beta(1-\beta)p^2+1]^{-1/2+\epsilon} \\ &= T^3 M \left(\frac{\mu}{M} \right)^{6\epsilon} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon\right)^2}{(4\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \frac{B\left(\frac{1}{2}-\epsilon, \frac{1}{2}-\epsilon\right)}{(4\pi)^{3/2-\epsilon} \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}-\epsilon\right)} B\left(1-2\epsilon, -\frac{1}{2}+3\epsilon\right) B(2\epsilon, 2\epsilon) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{T^3 M}{(4\pi)^{9/2}} \left(\frac{M^2}{4\pi\mu^2} \right)^{-3\epsilon} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}-\epsilon\right)^2 \Gamma\left(-\frac{1}{2}+3\epsilon\right) \Gamma(2\epsilon)^2}{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}-\epsilon\right) \Gamma(4\epsilon)} \\
&= -\frac{T^3 M}{2(4\pi)^3} \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon} + \left(6 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + 8 \right) + \left(18 \ln^2 \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + 48 \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}}{2M} + 52 + \frac{25\pi^2}{12} \right) \epsilon \right] + O(\epsilon^2).
\end{aligned} \tag{C7}$$

For step two above, we have used the result

$$\int \frac{d^{3-2\epsilon} q}{(2\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \frac{1}{(p^2 + m^2)[(p+q)^2 + m^2]} = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2} + \epsilon)}{(4\pi)^{3-2\epsilon}} \int_0^1 d\alpha [\alpha(1-\alpha)p^2 + m^2]^{-1/2-\epsilon}, \tag{C8}$$

obtained by Feynman parametrization, for $m = 0, 1$. For step three, the identity

$$\int_0^1 dx x^{a-1} (1-x)^{b-1} = B(a, b), \tag{C9}$$

where $B(a, b)$ is the Beta function

$$B(a, b) = \frac{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)}, \tag{C10}$$

as well as the surface area of the d -dimensional unit sphere, $2\pi^{d/2}/\Gamma(d/2)$, have been used.

For step four, we used the identity

$$\int_0^\infty dx \frac{x^{a-1}}{(1+x)^{a+b}} = B(a, b). \tag{C11}$$

Combining the results (C6) and (C7) gives the value for J_{3a} .

3. Identities for Three-dimensional Integrals

Here are some identities for $(3-2\epsilon)$ -dimensional integrals. It is easy to derive them and we will give a sample proof in the following subsection.

$$\begin{aligned}
J_{2a} &= -\frac{d-3}{2(d-4)} \frac{J_{1a}^2}{M^2} \\
J_{2c} &= \frac{1}{d-6} J_{2d} \\
J_{2d} &= -\frac{d-4}{2} J_{2a}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
J_{3c} &= -\frac{1}{4(d-5)}[(3d-11)J_{3a} - 4(d-3)J_{1a}J_{2a}] \\
J_{3d} &= \frac{3d-11}{d-3}J_{3b} - 2J_{1a}J_{2b} \\
J_{3e} &= \frac{1}{4(d-4)}[(3d-11)J_{3b} - 2(d-3)J_{1a}J_{2a}] \\
J_{3f} &= \frac{1}{2(2d-9)}[(3d-13)J_{3e} - 2(d-3)J_{1a}J_{2d}] \\
J_{3g} &= \frac{1}{4(d-7)}[-(3d-13)J_{3c} + 4(d-3)J_{1a}J_{2c}] \\
J_{3h} &= -\frac{3d-11}{4(2d-9)}J_{3b} \\
J_{3i} &= \frac{1}{4(d-5)}[(3d-13)(2J_{3e} - J_{3c}) + 4J_{3f}] \\
J_{3j} &= \frac{1}{4} \left[J_{3b} + J_{3d} - 4J_{3e} - 2J_{1a}(2J_{2a} - J_{2b}) - \frac{J_{1a}^3}{M^2} \right]. \tag{C12}
\end{aligned}$$

Putting all of them together lets one express all three-dimensional integrals in terms of J_{1a} , J_{2b} , J_{3a} and J_{3b} :

$$\begin{aligned}
J_{2a} &= -\frac{d-3}{2(d-4)} \frac{J_{1a}^2}{M^2} \\
J_{2c} &= \frac{d-3}{4(d-6)} \frac{J_{1a}^2}{M^2} \\
J_{2d} &= \frac{d-3}{4} \frac{J_{1a}^2}{M^2} \\
J_{3c} &= -\frac{1}{4(d-5)} \left[(3d-11)J_{3a} + \frac{2(d-3)^2}{d-4} \frac{J_{1a}^3}{M^2} \right] \\
J_{3d} &= \frac{3d-11}{d-3} J_{3b} - 2J_{1a}J_{2b} \\
J_{3e} &= \frac{3d-11}{4(d-4)} J_{3b} + \frac{(d-3)^2}{4(d-4)^2} \frac{J_{1a}^3}{M^2} \\
J_{3f} &= \frac{(3d-13)(3d-11)}{8(d-4)(2d-9)} J_{3b} - \frac{(d-3)^2(d-5)}{8(d-4)^2} \frac{J_{1a}^3}{M^2} \\
J_{3g} &= \frac{(3d-13)(3d-11)}{16(d-5)(d-7)} J_{3a} + \frac{(d-3)^2}{8(d-7)} \left[\frac{3d-13}{(d-4)(d-5)} + \frac{2}{d-6} \right] \frac{J_{1a}^3}{M^2} \\
J_{3h} &= -\frac{3d-11}{4(2d-9)} J_{3b} \\
J_{3i} &= \frac{(3d-13)(3d-11)}{16(d-5)} \left[\frac{1}{d-5} J_{3a} + \frac{4}{2d-9} J_{3b} \right] + \frac{(d-3)^2(5d-23)}{8(d-4)(d-5)^2} \frac{J_{1a}^3}{M^2} \\
J_{3j} &= \frac{d^2-10d+23}{4(d-4)(d-3)} J_{3b} - \frac{1}{4(d-4)^2} \frac{J_{1a}^3}{M^2}. \tag{C13}
\end{aligned}$$

Since in the diagrams, J_{2b} and J_{3d} only appear through J_{3j} and therefore only in the combination $J_{3d} + 2J_{1a}J_{2b} = (3d - 11)J_{3b}/(d - 3)$ [see Appendix A and Eq. (C12)], we have not bothered to write down the evaluation of J_{2b} , although it is easy and can be done in general dimension.

4. Proof of Identities for J_{3c} and J_{3j}

As an example, here is the proof of the identity for J_{3c} in (C12). The proofs of all the other identities proceed along the same lines with the exception of that for J_{3j} , which is presented below.

Using the shorthand

$$\int_k \rightarrow T\mu^{2\epsilon} \int \frac{d^{d-1}k}{(2\pi)^{d-1}} \quad (C14)$$

we can write

$$\begin{aligned} J_{3c} &= \int_k \int_p \int_q \frac{M^2}{k^2(p^2+M^2)(q^2+M^2)[(k+p)^2+M^2][(k+q)^2+M^2]} \\ &= -\frac{M^2}{d-1} \int_k \int_p \int_q k_i \frac{\partial}{\partial k_i} \frac{M^2}{k^2(p^2+M^2)(q^2+M^2)[(k+p)^2+M^2][(k+q)^2+M^2]} \\ &= \frac{M^2}{d-1} \int_k \int_p \int_q \left[2 + \frac{4k \cdot (k+p)}{(k+p)^2+M^2} \right] \frac{1}{k^2(p^2+M^2)(q^2+M^2)[(k+p)^2+M^2][(k+q)^2+M^2]} \\ &= \frac{1}{d-1} \left\{ 4J_{3c} + 2M^2 \int_k \int_p \int_q \left[\frac{1}{(p^2+M^2)(q^2+M^2)[(k+p)^2+M^2]^2[(k+q)^2+M^2]} \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. - \frac{1}{k^2(q^2+M^2)[(k+p)^2+M^2]^2[(k+q)^2+M^2]} \right] \right\} \\ &= \frac{2}{d-5} \left(-\frac{1}{4}M^2 \frac{\partial J_{3a}}{\partial M^2} + M^2 \frac{\partial J_{1a}}{\partial M^2} J_{2a} \right) \\ &= \frac{2}{d-5} \left(-\frac{3d-11}{8} J_{3a} + \frac{d-3}{2} J_{1a} J_{2a} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (C15)$$

where for the second equality we have used the identity $(\partial k_i / \partial k_i) = d - 1$ and integrated by parts and where for the last step it has been used that by dimensional considerations $J_{3a} \propto M^{3d-11}$ and $J_{1a} \propto M^{d-3}$.

Finally, here is the proof of the identity for J_{3j} . Noting that

$$\int_p \frac{\vec{p}}{(p^2+M^2)(k+p)^2} \quad (\text{C16})$$

is parallel to \vec{k} , we have

$$\begin{aligned} J_{3j} &= \int_k \int_p \int_q \frac{p \cdot q}{(k^2+M^2)(p^2+M^2)(q^2+M^2)(k+p)^2(k+q)^2} \\ &= \int_k \int_p \int_q \frac{(k \cdot p)(k \cdot q)}{k^2(k^2+M^2)(p^2+M^2)(q^2+M^2)(k+p)^2(k+q)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \left[J_{3b} + J_{3d} - 4J_{3e} - 2J_{1a}(2J_{2a} - J_{2b}) - \frac{J_{1a}^3}{M^2} \right] . \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C17})$$

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